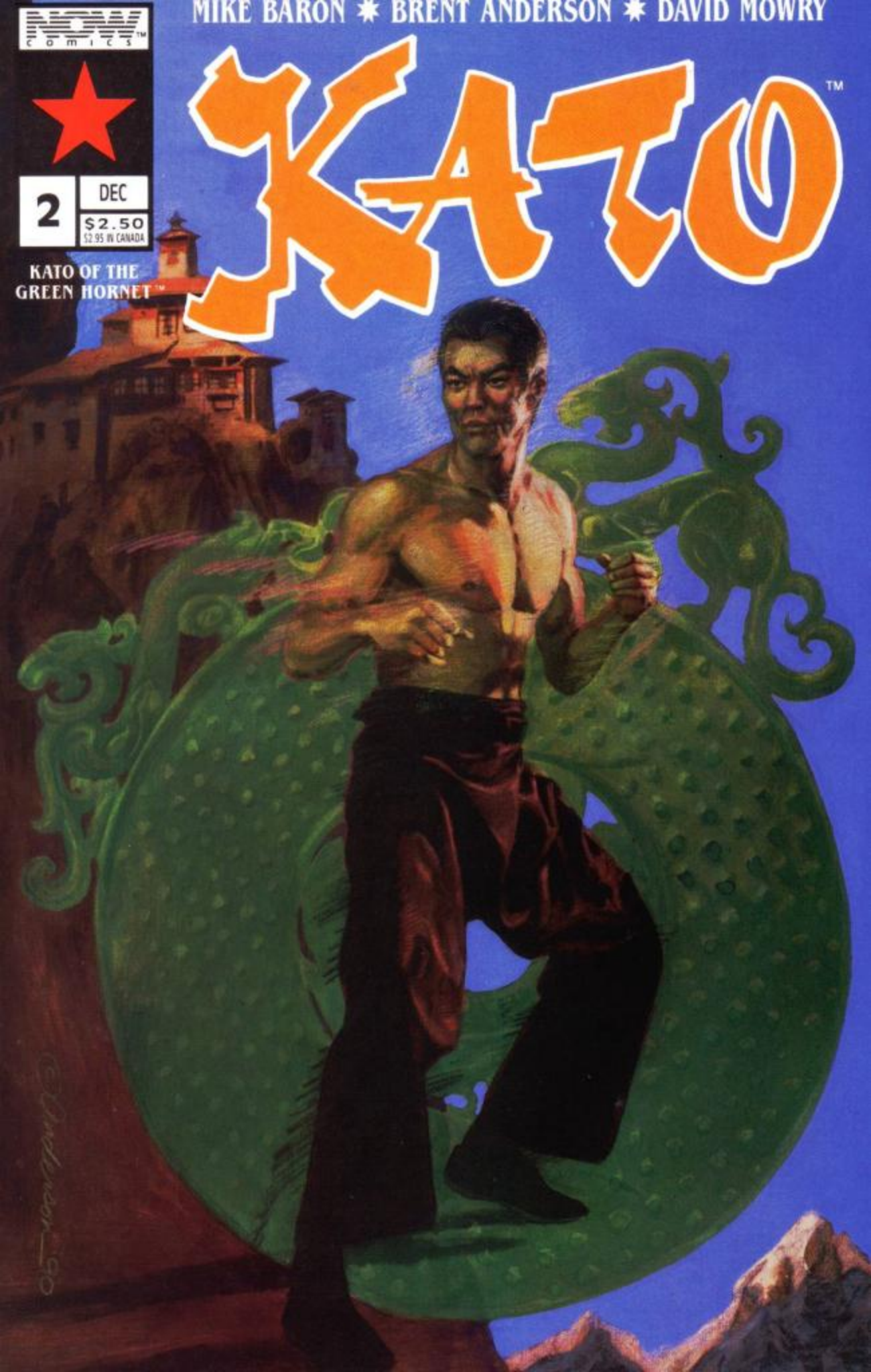
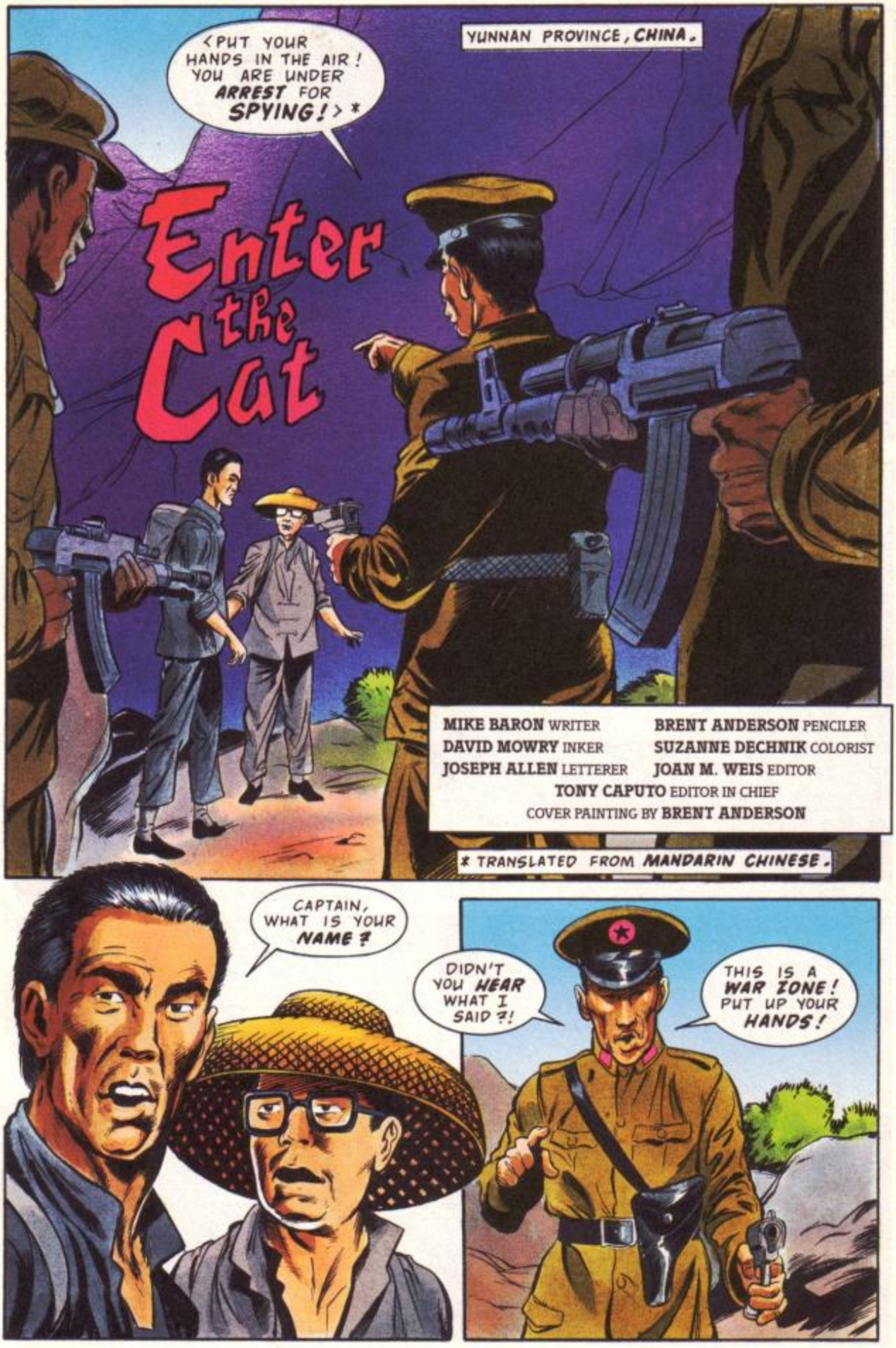

NOW COMICS
2
DEC
$2.50
$2.95 IN CANADA
KATO OF THE GREEN HORNET™
MIKE BARON ✸ BRENT ANDERSON ✸ DAVID MOWRY
KATO™


YUNNAN PROVINCE, CHINA.
<PUT YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR! YOU ARE UNDER ARREST FOR SPYING!> *
Enter the Cat
MIKE BARON WRITER
BRENT ANDERSON PENCILER
DAVID MOWRY INKER
SUZANNE DECHNIK COLORIST
JOSEPH ALLEN LETTERER
JOAN M. WEIS EDITOR
TONY CAPUTO EDITOR IN CHIEF
COVER PAINTING BY BRENT ANDERSON
* TRANSLATED FROM MANDARIN CHINESE.
CAPTAIN, WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID?!
THIS IS A WAR ZONE! PUT UP YOUR HANDS!

I HAVE MY HANDS UP IN EXASPERATION, CAPTAIN!
THERE HAS BEEN A FAILURE IN ARMY COMMUNICATIONS. WHY WEREN'T YOU TOLD OF OUR ARRIVAL?!
I, UH... WE'VE BEEN IN THE FIELD FOR 36 HOURS... WE HAVE NO RADIO...
I SEE. A TYPICAL FIELD FOUL-UP. GENERAL NE WIN WILL HEAR OF THIS. NAME?
HO. DON HO. FROM CANTON. WHO ARE YOU, SIR?
I'M SORRY, CAPTAIN. I DON'T BELIEVE YOU'VE BEEN CLEARED FOR THAT INFORMATION.
WE NEED TO APPROACH MT. REGRET. WE'RE ON A TOP SECRET MISSION FOR THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.
SIR, IT'S VERY HAZARDOUS.
EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE MODERN WEAPONS AND THE COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES DO NOT, THEY HAVE STRANGE WEAPONS WHICH WE DON'T UNDERSTAND... AND THE WEATHER HAS BEEN AGAINST US.
BOOM!
BOOM!
CAPTAIN, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE REACH THE TEMPLE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I HAVE THE MEANS TO END THIS INSURRECTION.
GIVE ME YOUR GUN -- MY ASSISTANT NEEDS ONE, TOO.

HAYASHI KATO! HOW DID YOU DO THAT?!
THE GOVERNMENT'S INSISTENCE ON BLIND OBEDIENCE IS A GREAT WEAKNESS.
A GOOD MAN IS CONTINUALLY TRYING TO FORCE HIS OPPONENT'S NEXT MOVE.
BUT WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THESE GUNS?
THE MONKS OF SHAOLIN DO NOT CARRY GUNS. THESE WILL CEMENT OUR MASQUERADE AS AGENTS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.
BOOM RUMBLE
WHAT ABOUT THE WEATHER, HAYASHI KATO? I'VE HEARD THE MONKS POSSESS OCCULT POWERS...
NOT OCCULT, ULYSSES, BUT THERE ARE CERTAIN TECHNIQUES SO DANGEROUS THEY MAY SEEM SUPER-NATURAL TO THE LAYMAN.
RAIN. WE CAN'T CLIMB THE MOUNTAIN IN A STORM!
WE CAN IF WE GO INSIDE THE MOUNTAIN!
BUT WE MUST COVER TWO KILOMETERS BEFORE THE RAIN OBSCURES THE ENTRANCE.
WHAT ABOUT THIS STORM? ARE THE MONKS CAUSING IT?!
BE OF NO MIND, ULYSSES CHOW.
TO BE OF NO MIND MEANS TO ASSUME THE EVERYDAY MIND.

IDIOT!
THWHAK
YOU HAD HAYASHI KATO IN YOUR CLUTCHES AND YOU LET HIM GO!
HOW CAN YOU BE CERTAIN THIS MAN WAS HAYASHI KATO?
I'VE BEEN EXPECTING KATO SINCE HE TURNED UP IN HONG KONG.
WHO ELSE CAN IT BE?! HIS EVERY ACTION CONFIRMS HIS IDENTITY.
EVEN CONSIDERING THE LOW LEVEL OF COMPETENCE AMONG ARMY OFFICERS, YOUR BEHAVIOR IS INEXCUSABLE!
YOU NEVER SAW HIS IDENTIFICATION?!
BUT SIR, WE ARE TOLD NEVER TO QUESTION OUR SUPERIORS!

I'M AFRAID YOU'RE TOO STUPID FOR THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY, CAPTAIN.
BUT I AM NOT WITHOUT COMPASSION-- GET BY ME, AND YOU MAY LIVE.
SWOOSH!
YAHH!
TEP
KRAK

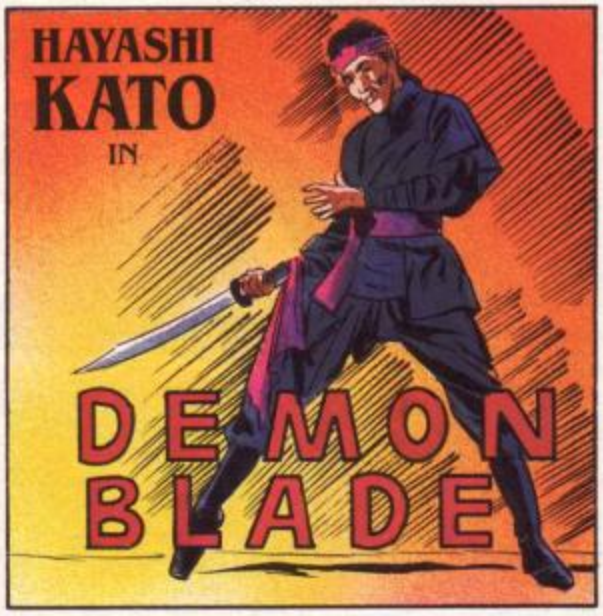
HE WON'T LIVE LONG WITH A CRUSHED LARYNX ...WHY DON'T YOU TAKE HIM OUT AND SHOOT HIM...?
WHY NOT KILL HIM OUTRIGHT, COLONEL NG?
DISTINGUISHED SECRETARY, TO DIE AT MY HANDS IS SOMETHING OF AN HONOR. THAT FOOL DOES NOT DESERVE IT!
HG*GH GHAAAK* *KH-HK
YOU WOULD LIKE TO KILL YOUR FORMER COMRADE, HAYASHI KATO --BUT YOU MUST NOT. THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WANTS TO QUESTION HIM.
THAT IS ENTIRELY UP TO HAYASHI KATO.
ALL YOUR MEN AND WEAPONS WILL BE USELESS AGAINST HIM. WHEN WE MET AT THE TEMPLE 30 YEARS AGO, IT WAS WRITTEN THAT WE WOULD FIGHT TO THE DEATH.
THE DEMON SWORD HAS BEEN IN MY FAMILY FOR OVER 12 GENERATIONS!
WASN'T THERE SOME DISPUTE OVER A SWORD?
THE MONKS WERE GOING TO GIVE IT TO KATO -- I COULD NOT PERMIT THAT!
IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME, GENTLEMEN, I'M DUE AT THE TRAINING HALL.
PKOW

IS IT POSSIBLE THE GREAT CAT NG CULTIVATES HIS OWN CULT OF PERSONALITY ?
WE EXPECTED IT, GIVEN THE NATURE OF MARTIAL ARTS TRADITION... BUT HE IS THE MOST SKILLED FIGHTER IN CHINA. WE MUST RELY ON HIM TO BREAK THE RESISTANCE OF THE SHAOLIN MONKS !

COLONEL NG HAND-PICKED THE KLAN THAT WAS TO DISSOLVE THE HONG KONG RESISTANCE.
INSTEAD, OUR TEAM WAS DISSOLVED--
--DUE TO HAYASHI KATO'S UNEXPECTED INTERFERENCE.

UNEXPECTED ?! I HARDLY THINK SO. I BELIEVE COLONEL NG HAS BEEN WAITING FOR KATO ALL ALONG.
KATO MUST NOT DIE. IF HE WERE TO SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO BEIJING...

EVEN A GREAT MOVIE STAR CAN REPUDIATE COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY VALUES.
YES, IT WOULD BE A GREAT VICTORY FOR THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC. PLEASE START THE FILM.


HAYASHI
KATO
IN
DEMON
BLADE

SWOOSH
IS ... IS THAT THE DEMON SWORD?
NO, ULYSSES CHOW -- JUST AN OLD SWORD I HID ON THE MOUNTAIN LONG AGO, WHEN I FLED THE TEMPLE.
SWOOSH
HUGE, CUMBERSOME THING. I PREFER A EUROPEAN RAPIER.
WHY DID YOU TAKE IT?
I USED TO BELIEVE IN THE CLASSICAL FORMS ...
I THOUGHT I WOULD NEED IT TO PROTECT MYSELF ...
THE CLASSICAL MAN IS JUST A BUNDLE OF ROUTINE, IDEAS, AND TRADITION ...
HAYASHI -- WE MUST BE NEAR THE TEMPLE ...
... BECAUSE HERE IS A GUARD!
YOU HAVE NO BUSINESS ON THIS MOUNTAIN -- YOU MUST GO BACK.

SIFU HI LEUNG, DON'T YOU KNOW ME? IT IS I, HAYASHI KATO!
I KNOW NO HAYASHI KATO. THIS MOUNTAIN BELONGS TO THE MONKS--YOU MUST GO BACK!
WE CANNOT GO BACK. WE MUST GO FORWARD!
THEN I MUST STOP YOU.
SIFU... I CAME AT UNCLE HO'S REQUEST.
SIFU HO SAID NOTHING TO ME.
CLANG
CRACK
KLOK

MY HUMBLE APOLOGIES, SIFU. I HAVE THE GREATEST RESPECT FOR YOU.
THAT IS NOT CLASSICAL SWORDSMANSHIP! YOU WERE NEVER A STUDENT OF MINE!
I HAVE DISGARDED CLASSICAL FORMS.
I KNEW A HAYASHI KATO ONCE, BUT HE WAS A DEVOTED STUDENT. HOW CAN YOU BE KATO?!
CLASSICAL FORMS DULL ONE'S CREATIVITY AND SENSE OF FREEDOM -- ONE NO LONGER "IS" BUT MERELY "DOES."
COME. SIFU HO WILL DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH YOU.
I THINK WE SHALL DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH OURSELVES, THANK YOU.
HAYASHI, YOUR DISPUTE WITH CLASSICAL FORMS IS LIKE THE DEMOCRACY DEMONSTRATORS' DISPUTE WITH THE HARD-LINERS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, ULYSSES CHOW?
THE BEIJING HARD-LINERS INSIST ON BLIND ADHERENCE TO STALINIST DOCTRINE, REGARDLESS OF IT'S IMPOTENCY IN TODAY'S CHANGING WORLD...
...LIKEWISE, THE CLASSICISTS INSIST ON BLIND ADHERENCE TO TRADITION EVEN IF IT DOESN'T WORK!
VERY GOOD, ULYSSES!
SILENCE! WE ARE APPROACHING THE TEMPLE!
BEHOLD!

ENTER.
WHERE ARE THE GUARDS?
WHOOMP
OBSERVE MY HAT...
ULICHNEY!
PLOK
MOST OF OUR MONKS ARE ON THE SLOPES CONFOUNDING GOVERNMENT TROOPS. BUT DON'T WORRY -- YOU COULD NOT HAVE ENTERED THE TEMPLE WITHOUT ME.
WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED?

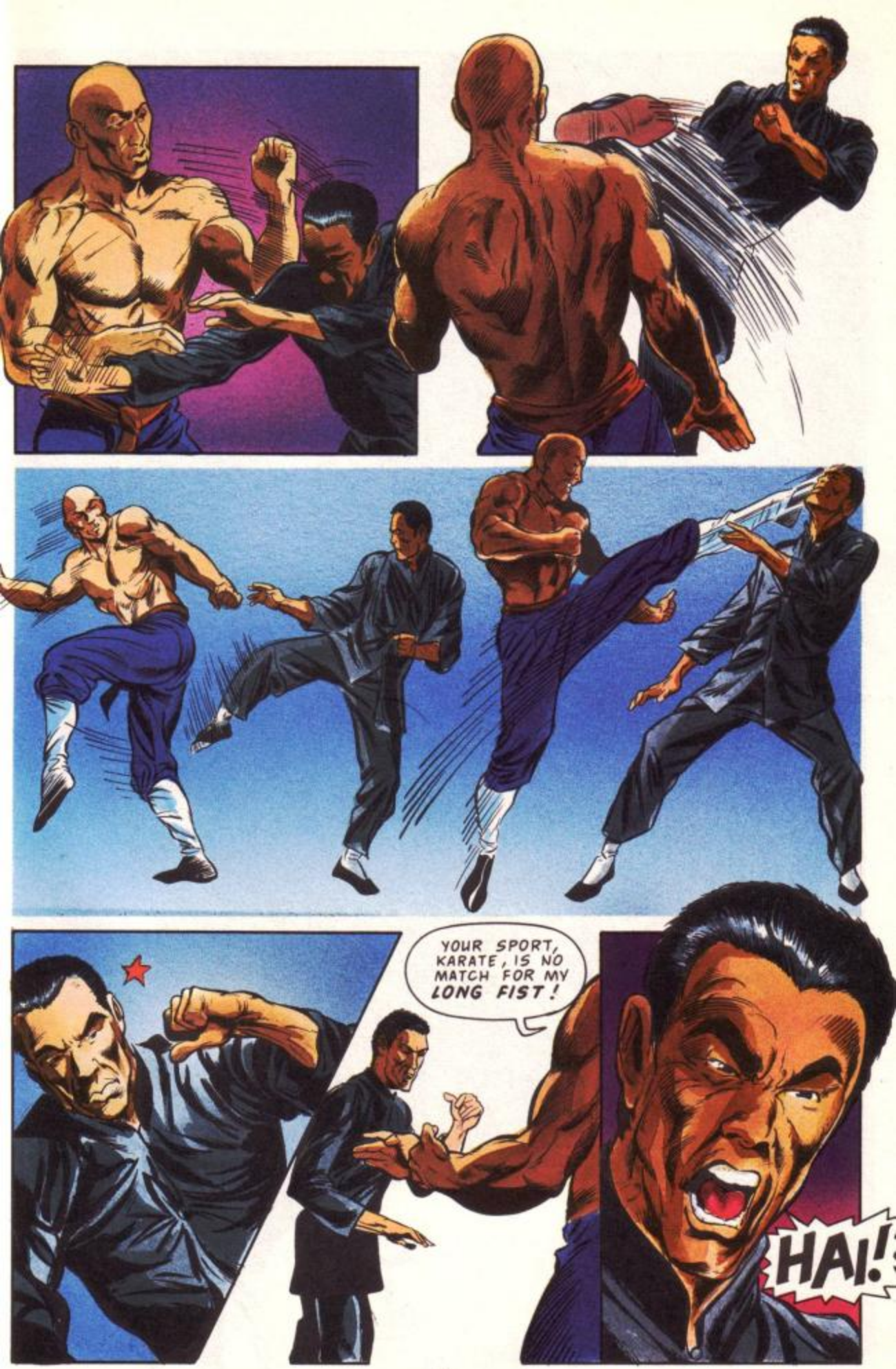
UNCLE HO IS IN HIS CHAMBERS.
HALT! NO FIREARMS ARE PERMITTED BEYOND THIS POINT.
COME IN... COME CLOSER... IS IT YOU, LITTLE DRAGON?
SIFU HO! MY HEART REJOICES TO SEE YOU AGAIN! HOW CAN I BE OF ASSISTANCE?
I AM GLAD TO SEE YOU TOO, HAYASHI KATO. YOU LEFT RATHER ABRUPTLY, AS I RECALL...
IT WAS NOT THE DEMON SWORD I STOLE -- ONLY A PRACTICE WEAPON!
I KNOW. CAT NG HAS THE SWORD. IF YOU COULD RETURN IT, THE GOVERNMENT FORCES WOULD HAVE NO CHANCE AGAINST US.
HELP ME STAND... IT IS TIME TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING... ABBOTT HI LEUNG, YOU WILL LEAD THE WAY...

TO REACH THE CHAMBER OF DEEPENING RESONANCE, WE MUST TRAVERSE THE TRAINING HALL.
WILL YOU LEAD THE WAY, PLEASE, HAYASHI KATO?
CERTAINLY, SIFU. HAVE YOU SEEN ANY OF MY MOVIES?
"WHAT MOVIES ARE THOSE, MY SON?"
"BLOOD FEUD", "ENTER THE BADGER", "LIGHTNING FISTS OF VENGEANCE"...
"NO... I WASN'T AWARE YOU HAD MADE ANY MOVIES..."
I'LL SEND YOU SOME VIDEO TAPES.
"PLEASE DON'T BOTHER-- WE HAVE NO ELECTRICITY."
"THE ENTRANCE TO THE CHAMBER LIES BEHIND THAT VASE..."
SIFU, WE'VE BROUGHT GUNS--
--WE CAN CAPTURE MORE UNTIL WE HAVE ENOUGH TO KILL ALL THE GOVERNMENT TROOPS.

"NO, THAT WOULD NOT BE RIGHT. WE MUST DEFEAT THEM USING OUR OWN METHODS SO THAT THEY WILL FEAR TO EVER AGAIN TRY TO ELIMINATE US."
I UNDERSTAND ...UNGH!... THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS FINALLY EMBRACED WUSHU...
"THAT IS TRUE. AND WHO DO YOU SUPPOSE IS IN CHARGE OF THEIR PROGRAM? IT IS YOUR OLD CLASSMATE CAT NG!"
HERE IS THE CHAMBER OF DEEPENING RESONANCE.
BEHOLD THE DEMON GONG -- WHEN STRUCK WITH THE DEMON SWORD, ITS VIBRATIONS GROW UNTIL THEY TOSS THE INVADERS OFF THE MOUNTAIN!
SO! THIS IS THE GREAT SECRET NO WOMAN MAY BE PERMITTED TO SEE!..
?SIGH? ANOTHER TRADITION DESTROYED... HAYASHI KATO, MAY I INTRODUCE THE OTHER PART OF YOUR DUTIES...
SO, I'M A DUTY AM I?!
I WOULD HAVE BEEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY DAYS AGO IF YOU HAD LET ME GO!

THESE ARE SAD DAYS ... WE ARE BESIEGED FROM WITHIN AND FROM WITHOUT !
THE TEMPLE IS OBLIGATED TO SHELTER GUESTS ... UNTIL THEY LEAVE OF THEIR OWN VOLITION.
THAT IS CORRECT, HAYASHI KATO ... I AM FAMILIAR WITH THE TENETS OF THE TEMPLE ...
... THANKS TO YOUR MOVIE, "SECRETS OF SHAOLIN". DID YOU KNOW THERE ARE WUSHU MASTERS WHO HAVE VOWED TO KILL YOU FOR REVEALING THOSE SECRETS ?
I HAVE HEARD SOME VAGUE THREATS.
WHIIIII / / / / / SSS
BONG
HAYASHI KATO ! TRAITOR TO SHAOLIN !
I HAVE BEEN TO THE WEST -- I HAVE SEEN YOUR BETRAYAL ON A GIANT SCREEN ! YOU DARE TO RETURN HERE ?! I WILL KILL YOU, BASTARDIZED WESTERNER !
TONG LOO ! STOP ! -- I FORBID IT !
I'M SORRY, HONORED UNCLE, BUT YOU NO LONGER CONTROL THIS TEMPLE !
YOU HAVE BECOME A VICTIM OF THE PETER PRINCIPLE !
I MUST ASSUME COMMAND IN ORDER TO SAVE THE TEMPLE !

IF THAT IS HOW YOU FEEL, TONG LOO, I WILL NOT STOP YOU. YOU MAY CONTEST HAYASHI KATO.
I'M NOT ALONE IN THIS, SIFU-- THE OTHERS ARE BEHIND ME.
VERY GOOD. CHALLENGE HIM NOW... OR MAKE A SPEECH.
COME, OLD DRAGON, COME-- I'LL SHOW YOU HOW THE WEST HAS MADE YOU SOFT!
I'M NOT THAT OLD!


YOUR SPORT, KARATE, IS NO MATCH FOR MY LONG FIST!
HAI!

BAP
BAP
BAP
BAP
BAP
BAP
BAP
BAP
BAP
BAP
BAP
WAP
WAK
WAP
WAK
WHA-KAAAAAA!

YOU HAVE FOUND ONLY DEATH HERE, OLD DRAGON !
"TONG, NO ! I FORBID IT !"
YOU ARE NO LONGER IN CHARGE, HONORED UNCLE !
"HAYASHI-- CATCH !"
WA SKA TANG
CHONK!
HA!
THUMP

KOOP
HOOP
HOOP
HOOP
HOOP
HOOP
HOOP
HOOP
POW!
ENOUGH!
NOT ALL OUR MONKS CAN STAND AGAINST THE PEOPLE'S ARMY. SOON THEY WILL BE HERE AND THEN WE MUST PRESENT A UNITED FRONT!
HAYASHI, YOU ARE OUR MIGHTIEST WARRIOR -- YOU SHALL LEAD OUR DEFENSE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS YOU CAN TAKE THE GIRL AND GO!
THE GIRL?! DON'T YOU THINK "THE GIRL" SHOULD HAVE A SAY IN THIS?!
SILENCE! WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING HERE? WHO IS GUARDING THE TEMPLE?
QUICKLY! TO THE COURTYARD! YANG AND SHANG CHIN-- PLEASE ASSIST ME!

SIFU!
THE GOVERNMENT TROOPS HAVE FOUND THE SECRET TUNNEL!
THEY ARE BREAKING INTO THE COURTYARD!
UK!
GREETINGS, SIFU. I'M SORRY YOU DIDN'T JOIN OUR REVOLUTIONARY MARTIAL ARTS SOCIETY WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE.

WHERE IS THE COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY CRIMINAL TAM LAM AND HER COLLABORATOR, THE TRAITOR, HAYASHI KATO ?
PWAK

WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
HA! YOU ARE AN OLD MAN MADE SOFT BY YOUR YEARS IN THE WEST!
I SAW YOUR MOVIES ... I EXPECTED A GREAT FAKER...
BUT YOU'RE NOT EVEN A GOOD ACTOR, ARE YOU?
NOT LIKE YOU, CAT, EH? YOU TRICKED THE MONKS AND THEN YOU BETRAYED THEM!
SPEAK NOT TO ME OF BETRAYAL. I AM A TRUE CHINESE -- YOU HAVE BECOME A TRAINED PET FOR A JADED WESTERN AUDIENCE...
BLOODY MURDERER! I KNOW YOU, COLONEL NG! I SAW YOU KILL AT TIANANMEN SQUARE!
HOW DID YOU FIND THE TUNNEL, CAT? YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT IT WHEN YOU WERE HERE.
I HAD EXCELLENT GUIDANCE. WHERE IS MY GUIDE?

AH-- HERE IS LIEUTENANT LINN NOW.
GREETINGS, GREAT MOVIE STAR.
NO WONDER WE ENTERED THE MAINLAND SO EASILY ...
CARTER! NOT YOU?!
HOW DO YOU KNOW CARTER?
HE WAS A VERY CLOSE FRIEND DURING THE STRUGGLE ...
SILENCE!
YOU WILL BE GIVEN ONE OPPORTUNITY, HAYASHI KATO.
JOIN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC -- USE YOUR TALENTS TO MAKE FILMS THAT WILL SERVE THE REVOLUTION-- OR DIE.
PERSONALLY, I HOPE YOU WILL REFUSE, SO THAT I MIGHT KILL YOU.
VERY WELL ... I ACCEPT.

NEXT: **GREATER GLORY**

NEXT ISSUE:

Did the evil Cat Ng successfully manipulate Kato into joining the People's Republic?! Or does Kato have something else in mind?